

LOWER HALSTOW
VILLAGE NEWS

NOVEMBER 2014



REFLECTIONS OF LOWER HALSTOW 1914

Altar flowers – photo by Pam Shephard

**We will remember them at the
REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE
at St. Margaret's Church
Sunday 9th November at 10.30 a.m.**

Compiled, edited and published for the village by
St. MARGARET'S CHURCH

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S IN NOVEMBER

Sunday 2nd November

8.00 a.m. Traditional B.C.P. Spoken Communion

6.00 p.m. Praise Communion

Sunday 9th November

10.30 a.m. **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

Refreshments afterwards

Sunday 16th November

10.30 a.m. Morning Praise

Refreshments afterwards

4.00 p.m. Evensong

Sunday 23rd November

10.30 a.m. Welcome Service

Refreshments afterwards.

Sunday 30th November

10.30 a.m. Communion service for The Six at Halstow

Refreshments afterwards

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

November 2nd Fay and Denise Balban.

9th Remembrance Day; 16th Maggie Mills & Fiona Harrington;

23rd Liz Mouland; 30th Yvonne Quigley.

December 7th Pauline Stevens.

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER VILLAGE NEWS
IS NOON ON WEDNESDAY 12th NOVEMBER.**

E MAIL ADDRESS pauline.elmfarm@btconnect.com

*THERE IS NO NEED TO WAIT FOR THE DEADLINE BEFORE YOU
SEND YOUR NEWS. IT HELPS TO SEND IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.*

INVITATION



**Lower Halstow Parish Council
and**

The Friends of the Brickfields

**Invite you to the inauguration of
The Lower Halstow Memorial Wood**

By the Deputy Mayor

Tuesday, November 11th 2014

at

11.45

The Beanfield, Lower Halstow Brickfields

**Followed by Coffee and Refreshments
in**

The Three Tuns

Parish Clerk Christine Fordham Tel: 01795 844060

Email: clerk.lhpc@gmail.com

www.lowerhalstowpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

REFLECTIONS OF LOWER HALSTOW 1914 You will find enclosed a commemorative leaflet of the Reflections, which took place at St. Margaret's on the weekend of August 2nd – 4th, for you to keep as a souvenir. If you would like one for a friend or relative we have copies, available for a donation, in the church.

VILLAGE DIARY FOR NOVEMBER and other dates for your diary.

Monday 3rd November Lower Halstow Crafters continue to meet on the first Monday of the month and every alternate Wednesday. We are now well into "Christmas mode" and having done some glass painting and made Christmas tree bunting we are planning to make a rag rug wreath over the next few weeks. If you fancy coming you will be made very welcome. Details of all our meetings can be obtained from Margaret on 01795 843100 email Blenerrow@firenet.u.net or Barbara on 07788871772 email barbaracastleptn@aol.co.uk We plan to have lots on display at the Christmas Bazaar to wet your appetites

Tuesday 4th November **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** in the **MEMORIAL HALL**. Parish Council meetings commence at **7.00 p.m.** for a public open time, followed by the Parish Council business.

Friday 7th November **GAMES AFTERNOON** at the Memorial Hall, 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Games include Whist, Rummikub, Eucre, Dominos, Scrabble and many other board or card games. No joining fee, just £1.50 for tea/coffee/biscuits and a very warm welcome.

Friday 7th November is the deadline date for the Blythswood Shoe Boxes. It has to be the final day, as new arrangements are in place for the boxes to be collected from the village. Una, 2 Cumberland Drive, Liz, 14 Curlew Avenue, and Jackie 48, School Lane, will be pleased to see you, with your boxes. THANK YOU. Jackie Swift.

Saturday 8th November **CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR** at **St.Margaret's Church, 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.** Refreshments available. Join us for a wide range of crafts, gifts and home baking, including jewellery, needlework, fountain pens, cards, calendars, local honey and woodwork. Also the Winter Tea Room aboard the "Edith May" Thames Sailing barge is open 10 am to 4pm.

Sunday 9th November **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** at **St, Margaret's church, 10.30 a.m.** All are very welcome in this Centenary Year and it is hoped that as many as possible will attend. As always, we will be remembering and honouring those from the village who lost their lives in past wars. They are mentioned by name, but there are no doubt many of the newer residents who have relatives who also could be mentioned. If any of you have names to be added please get in touch with Alan Swift on 824749.

The Field of Crosses will again be in the churchyard. This is also an opportunity to plant a cross for personal remembrance and the Field **will be open on the morning of Saturday 1st November.**

Saturday 15th November **Lower Halstow MEMORIAL WOOD TREE PLANTING DAY - be part of village history !**

The war memorial in the bean-field area of the Brickfields is due to be unveiled in a ceremony on the 11th November, and the following Saturday we invite all villagers to help plant some 400 saplings that have been donated to the village by the Woodland Trust to establish the wood around the new memorial. Meet on the beanfield (that's the big field to the South of the Brickfields, nearest Heron Close) at **10.00 a.m.** and bring wellies, spades and forks! If you have any queries or you'd like to confirm you're able to help, email Judy at judytelf@uwclub.net

UpARA (Upchurch Active Retirement Association) Our membership has now reached 150, so up to our limit. However, if you do know of someone who is interested in joining encourage them to put their names on our waiting list. It is not very long and our next membership year is not far off. Our next events are:

Monthly Meeting (2nd Friday of the month) Members Free; Guests £2.00

Friday 14th November 2.00pm

Coffee Mornings (4th Tuesday of the month) (Members £1.50; Guests £2.00)

Tuesday 25th November 09.30am until 12.30pm

Village Walks (Every other Friday)

Outing **Saturday 8th November** Greyhound Racing Sittingbourne

New members welcome. Annual Subscription £15.

David Powell – Chairman davidrpowell5@hotmail.co.uk 01795-843550

Saturday 22nd November at **11.00 a.m.** the **SNOW QUEEN** will arrive on her faithful steed Bambi to open the Memorial Hall's **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**. The Bazaar includes:- home-made Christmas Cakes, wooden gifts, crocheted gifts, gifts from our Lower Halstow Crafters, freshly made Indian food and mince pies. Chocoholics will be there to give you a taster and take orders for Christmas. Beautiful candles, a fabulous nail demonstration, Christmas wrapping, bows and cards, and so much more. If you're feeling hungry try our home-made soup with French bread, hot toddies of mulled wine - we can't wait - we'll see you there.

Thursday 27th November **COFFEE STOP** in **St Margaret's Church. 9.30 - 11.30 a.m.** (and every fourth Thursday in the month). We serve hot or cold drinks, cakes, toasted sandwiches and home-made savouries etc. at very reasonable prices, in the beautiful setting of our ancient village church. Everyone welcome.

Saturday 29th November **WHIST DRIVE** in the **Memorial Hall** at **7.30 p.m. £3.00**. Everyone welcome.

Sunday 13th December **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE** at **St. Margaret's, 3.00 p.m.**

Friday 19th December **COFFEE AND CAROLS** at the **Memorial Hall, 7.30 p.m.**

Sunday 21st December **CAROL SERVICE** at **St. Margaret's, 3.00 p.m.**

Sunday 21st December **CHRISTMAS STORYTELLING on the Edith May** - A Family Christmas Treat!

The Friends of the Brickfields are hosting an evening of Seasonal Storytelling with Wide Eyed Theatre company. There will be **two sessions, at 4.30pm and 6.30pm**, and the stories are suitable for children aged six and over. The Edith May galley will be open on the day, selling drinks, delicious cakes and snacks.

Tickets are only £5 each on a first come first served basis, and we do ask that each booking includes one adult. Tickets available from Michael van der Straaten at 19 The Street, Lower Halstow, ME9 7DR with cheques payable to The Friends of The Lower Halstow Brickfields. Please indicate which session you would prefer (we will try and accommodate you!) and include your email address for us to send you your tickets. Any profits will go towards the maintenance and upkeep of the Brickfields.
Michael van der Straaten

REGULAR DATES

Every Monday 10.00 a.m. Free **HEALTH WALKS** starting from the main entrance to The Brick Fields. A brisk walk of up to two hours on mainly flat ground. Sturdy shoes and a rain coat recommended.

Every Monday 1.00 p.m. **THE LIBRARY VAN** calls at **Lower Halstow** outside the **Memorial Hall**.

Every Monday **SHORT MAT BOWLS** **2.00 – 4.00 p.m.** in the **Memorial Hall**

Every Wednesday SHORT MAT BOWLS 7.30 – 9.30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall

Every first Wednesday of the month QUIZ NIGHT at The Three Tuns.

Not quite a regular date – Usually every fourth Tuesday of January, February March, April, July, September and October Gardening Club meets in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m. We have speakers who come to the Hall and give a talk on a variety of topics. These will always be published beforehand in the Newsletter and visitors are always very welcome.

The fourth Thursday of every month THE BRIDGE COFFEE STOP in St. MARGARET'S CHURCH, 9.30 – 11.30 a.m.

PASTORAL LETTER

How soon our summer passes and is immediately replaced, particularly in the shops, not with some lovely Harvest displays but with repulsive and grotesque halloween items, guaranteed to scare any small child! Walking around a local supermarket today, whole sections were full of black items that seemed to cast a real shadow over the children's and adults' sections. How sad that the ugly has to overrule the good side of life.

I make no apologies for quoting a few sentences from the Bible:

'Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and dwell on the fine, good things in others. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about.and the God of peace will be with you.

I was actually searching for a suitable diary for next year as requested dates are being asked for constantly. I asked a member of staff to which she replied with great surprise 'Oh no! They won't be in for at least another month!' Really? Funny that we can get Easter eggs in January, and Christmas Cards and halloween items in July but diaries in October? Oh no – too early!

To finish on a happy note, I have just returned from the auction of the Harvest food donations at Lower Halstow's church. The bidding was fun and competitive and, with several bidders, I wondered if they would really eat all the food they were bidding for! As we cleared up at the end of the evening, there was a large stack of food left at the back with the instruction to give it all to the Medway Food Bank! To our anonymous donors, thank you so much, the Food Bank will be so grateful to receive it ... and WaterAid, creating new bore holes for safe drinking water in African villages, will benefit from all the money made this evening. This is community working together as it should...as one. Not church and the village, but the church as part of the village.

It isn't our church, nor are any of the six churches that are linked together. They are your churches, and are nothing without you! Please come and visit and support your local church, they are all struggling to survive and need to know that you do all still want them to be there for you. Lower Halstow in particular has had the church there on the river side for 1100 years. How terrible if it, or any of our churches, wasn't there for us any more, due to lack of support. Please let's make sure that never happens! Jacky Davis ... one of the team.

THE HARVEST AUCTION was once again an enjoyable evening, and it was so good to have the children with us to act as runners. One of the older boys has been coming for several years now and the auctioneer, a farmer who is suspicious of foreign food, was grateful to him for helping out with the foreign produce. The auction raised £127, but, with donations, we were able to send £200 to WaterAid. Thank you so much for coming out on a wet evening.

SHIRLEY WOOLACOTT 29th August 1935 – 6th September 2014

Those of us who knew Shirley were saddened to learn that she had died, although we knew that she had not been well for some time. When she and her husband, Ken, moved into the village in the early 1980s Shirley became involved with life at St. Margaret's church. She became a member of the Parochial Church Council, eventually becoming secretary, was on the altar flower rota, and helped to run a thriving Sunday School. She was responsible for organising our first Christingle service, which is now an annual event each December. Shirley so enjoyed being part of the dog walking fraternity on the Brickfields amenity land. She was a familiar sight in the mornings as she parked her car and let her

excited dogs out for their morning run. Both she and Ken planted many of the daffodil bulbs on the village green, which burst into blossom each spring and are a permanent joy to us all. Although they moved to Upchurch some years ago she still continued to attend church services whenever she could. She will be remembered especially for her enthusiasm for the Sunday school, the making of the orange Christingles, her delicious Simnel cake at Easter and the daffodils, and will be sadly missed by us all.



Shirley at Sunday School

LOWER HALSTOW 100 YEARS AGO notes taken from the *East Kent Gazette*.

November 1914

The Cottage Gardeners' Association held their monthly meeting and show. The exhibits were sold afterwards and raised £1 12sh for the Belgian Refugees Fund.

The Parish Council organised a house-to-house collection which was undertaken by the boy scouts, scoutmaster Bert South. £6 12sh was raised. The whole staff and workmen of Messrs. Eastwood and Co. Ltd. voluntarily gave their weekly contributions to the Prince of Wales Fund and Belgian Relief. A Jumble Sale was held at Halstow school and raised £4 which was given to the Ladies Linen League and parochial needs equally.

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk Christine Fordham, 18 Cumberland Drive, Lower Halstow. Tel: 01795 844060, or email clerk.lhpc@gmail.com

Parking outside the School The Council's request for double yellow lines in School Lane has been refused. However the Council will continue to monitor the situation and will ask the PCSO to visit the site regularly to deal with those drivers who park dangerously.

Ever thought of becoming a Councillor? In May 2015, the County, Borough and Parish Councils will all be re-elected. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor yourself now is the time to contact the appropriate Council for more information.

Flagpole Survey Results Thanks to everyone who participated in the flagpole survey and apologies for the technical issues some people experienced. The survey closed on September 30th 2014. There were a total of 16 valid responses: Yes, there should be a flagpole: 3 (19%); No, there should not be a

flagpole: 12 (75%); Don't know: 1 (6%). So, there is an overwhelming majority against a flagpole. The Parish Council dropped the idea of a flagpole at the meeting held on October 7th 2014.

WESTMORELAND TRUST Following the success of the Workshops (funded by a Sharing Heritage Lottery Grant) and the gathering of information, a booklet has been produced to conform with the first phase of the bid. This will be available from any Trust member at no cost. We are now able to progress with the full application after satisfying another criteria.

We are co-opting more Trust members and also need someone to head "Friends of the Westmoreland". Please contact us if you would like to help or discuss the progress of this important project! Visit www.westmorelandtrust.co.uk.

THANK YOU from Norman Stevens.

I cannot let time pass without thanking the faithful few who continued to support our Domalee Afternoon Tea in the Memorial Hall. We contributed to many charities, keeping Margaret's dream of fund raising alive. Unfortunately we had to make a decision to call it a day. If we hadn't had the generous monetary support from Tricia Carr we would not have been able to continue for as long as we did. My grateful thanks go to you Tricia. I must also thank all those who prepared the refreshments, helped in the kitchen, helped with the activities e.g. Hoy Bingo and the setting up and clearing up. Most of all my thanks go to you, the faithful few, and your support. Listening to the chatter and laughter it was obvious you enjoyed your time together. We went out on a high, raising £374 for pancreatic cancer, which realized £748 due to the promise of my son-in-law's boss who said he would double any money collected up to £1000. Margaret would have been so pleased. Thank you all.
Norman Stevens.

THANK YOU from Emma South.

As some of you may recall, a few months ago I put in an article regarding my need to fund raise for my Explorer Belt Trip to Poland happening in 2015. Now that the summer has ended I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported me and my team over the past few months by offering us jobs and generous donations. I would also like to thank the Lower Halstow Scout group for all their support. If anyone still has any jobs that they would like done for a donation to our cause please contact me on emma_south@hotmail.co.uk or 07765714441. Thank you once again and, kind regards from Emma South and the Polska Explorer Belt team.

YOUR LOCAL 'BEST ONE' VILLAGE SHOP IN BURNTWICK DRIVE – now under new management. Opening times are: Monday - Saturday 7.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m. Sunday: 8.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m. All your daily needs including milk, bread, newspapers and magazines. We are doing our best to give you good service.

NEED A TAXI? Call Charlie, your local independent taxi, on 07920 113 860 or 01795 506100. Fully licensed and insured.

GUITAR TUITION: For all levels and styles in a relaxed atmosphere. Call Jeremy on 01795 842620.

DO YOU NEED AN EXPERIENCED, RELIABLE BUILDER? I'm available for small and medium jobs - repairs, alterations and refurbishments, from hanging a door to fitting a new kitchen or bathroom. Contact Bill Ransley on 07889 600677 or 01795 843871.

PHOTO SERVICES If you have damaged or faded treasured photos, I can repair them by scanning and digital restoration. Other photo services include printing from negatives, slides and digital files with photo enhancement, archiving onto CD/DVD and bespoke picture framing. I can also provide advice on your printing or PC problems. Contact Tony Fordham on 01795 844060 or mobile 07791 992734.

AVON CALLING For your new brochure call Kay on 07941681244.

MR. DIG-IT'S GARDEN SERVICE (formerly Lower Halstow) For one-off or regular visits call Peter on 01634 574676 or 07787 813 512.

EMGardening 01795 841755 - 07846715300
We can TAME and MAINTAIN your unruly garden.
Grasscutting, Hedgetrimming, Small Tree work etc.

FABULOUS FINGERTIPS Manicures, pedicures, gel polish, gel nail extensions. Fully insured.
Home service available. Call Tanya on 843362 or 07876 458021 www.fabulousfingertips.co.uk

ALISON'S ALTERATIONS If it can be sewn, I'll sew it! Fix, alter, replace, zips, buttons, rips, linings, badges, smaller or larger (if possible), clothing bags, soft furnishings and house-hold linens.
email: creativesewing@live.co.uk text/phone my mob: 07813084051 phone: 01795 555853
Also WANTED – vintage clothing and textiles

PLUMBER & HEATING ENGINEER
Gas Safe registered
COMPLETE BATHROOMS SUPPLIED & FITTED
R. H .PARKER LTD
Worcester, Bosch and Valient boilers supplied and installed
from as little as £1600 with 5 & 7 year warrantee options
Kestrel's, 100 School Lane, Lower Halstow
Daniel Parker (01795) 843361 Steve Parker
07771 333084 No call out charge 07879 883153

Experienced Financial Advisor offering Pensions and Investment planning

Michael van der Straaten FPFS
Chartered Financial Planner
19 The Street, Lower Halstow
Contact me on 07824 392342 or
Email : michael.vanderstraaten@sjpp.co.uk
Website : www.michaelvanderstraaten.co.uk

Advertising rates: £1 per line for those which are for personal gain, but at the same time constitute news or provide a service for villagers. £2 per line for other commercial adverts. The P.C.C. reserves the right to exclude adverts if they appear unsuitable.

Please note that the editor is not responsible for any inaccuracies which may occur in reports and news from contributors. Contributions are printed (usually with only minor adjustments and corrections if necessary) as handed in. The editor has to assume that contributors have checked their facts and that the news is correct. If you have any queries or complaints please contact the relevant organisation direct – telephone numbers are listed on the back page.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

(01795 unless otherwise stated)

*If you find that any of these numbers is no longer in use
please let Pauline know on 842028*

The Rev. Jacky Davis 842557

Jackie Swift (churchwarden) 842749

Pauline Stevens (PCC secretary) 842028

Memorial Hall (chairman) Keith Howard Challis 844408 lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com

Memorial Hall new bookings (Jill Peters) 844054

The school 842344

The Three Tuns 842840

Short Mat Bowls (John Mustoo) 843681

Cricket Club (Mark Stevens) 842090

Beaver Cub Scout Group (Dave Giles) 843193 1stlowerhalstowscouts@gmail.com

Playgroup (Heather Salisbury) 01634 233182

Yacht Club (Dave Quigley) 01795 841242

Judo Club (Jon) 07944755036.

The Parish Clerk (Christine Fordham) 844060

PCSO 57932 Matthew Link, Lower Halstow & Iwade,

101 or 01795 419116 matthew.link@kent.pnn.police.uk

Crime Stoppers 0800 555111

Swale Borough Council (Main office) 424341

Swale Borough Councillor for Lower Halstow & Iwade (Ben Stokes) 476979

County Councillor (Roger Truelove) roger.truelove@kent.gov.uk 425445

County Councillor (Lee Burgess) LeeBurgess@kent.gov.uk

M.P. Gordon Henderson 423199 www.gordonhendersonmp.org.uk

Citizen's Advice Bureau 0870 1212105

Police (general enquiries) 01622 690690

Neighbourhood Watch (John Haddaway) 01634 792131

Dog Warden 077952 37479

Noise nuisance 417850 (out-of-hours 07881817601)

N.H.S. Direct 0845 4647

Parish Council Website: www.lowerhalstowpc.kentparishes.gov.uk.

If you would like your name and number added, or you would like to suggest another useful number, please contact Pauline Stevens on 842028.

If any number changes, or you are no longer a contact person, please let Pauline know.

THE DEADLINE FOR ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE NOVEMBER VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON SUNDAY 12th OCTOBER.

Items for inclusion to Pauline at Elm Farm (842028)

or pauline.elmfarm@btconnect.com

Please remember – if we don't receive your news, we can't print it!

THE DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON TUESDAY 12th NOVEMBER.

E MAIL ADDRESS pauline.elmfarm@btconnect.com

THERE IS NO NEED TO WAIT FOR THE DEADLINE BEFORE YOU SEND YOUR NEWS. IT HELPS TO SEND IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.